

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 11, 2004, has been received and reviewed. The Office Action indicated that claims 1-50 are currently pending. However, the Applicants note the filing of a preliminary amendment on August 28, 2003, wherein claims 1-50 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 51-68 were added. Reconsideration and substantive examination of claims 51-68 are requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed herein on August 20, 2003, and that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein and an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the cited references be returned to the undersigned attorney.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Double Patenting Rejection

Since the preliminary amendment of August 28, 2003, canceled claims 1-50, the Applicants will not address the double patenting rejections and request examination of claims 51-68 as presented in the listing of claims herein.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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